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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

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GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

CONFIDENTIAL FEB 13 23 17 Z

CITE [redacted] 3.5(c)

DIST 13 FEBRUARY 1968

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI [redacted] 3.3(h)(2)

SUBJECT COVERAGE OF THE SAIGON-GIA DINH SITUATION FOR THE PERIOD 0800 3 FEBRUARY TO 2130 6 FEBRUARY 1968

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON /7 FEBRUARY 1968/ [redacted] 3.5(c)

SOURCE [redacted] 3.3(h)(2)

1. THE FOLLOWING CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS WAS POSTED AT THE COMBINED SECURITY COMMITTEE AS THE EVENTS WERE REPORTED. SUBSEQUENT REPORTING INDICATED THAT A FEW OF THESE ENTRIES CONTAINED SOME INACCURACIES. THE CHRONOLOGY IS PRESENTED, HOWEVER, SINCE IT GIVES A GOOD PICTURE OF HOW THE VC ATTACK ON SAIGON-GIA DINH DEVELOPED DURING THE PERIOD COVERED.

3 FEB

0800H THE CURFEW IS LIFTED FROM 0800H TO 1400H TODAY IN SAIGON AREA. IT IS ONLY IN EFFECT FROM THE 1ST PRECINCT THRU 8TH PRECINCT, EXCEPT THE 9TH PRECINCT AND GIA DINH AREA. VEHICLES AND BICYCLES ARE NOT ALLOWED MOVING ON THE STREETS.

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0900H THE VC ARE CONCENTRATING AT WAREHOUSES LOCATED AT COORDINATES XS 790860 AND XS 789859, ALONG ME COC CANAL /7TH PRECINCT/. REQUEST AIRSTRIKES TO BE DIRECTED ON THESE COORDINATES.

1035H FRIENDLY FORCES REMOVED BODIES OF THREE VN DEAD POLICEMEN AND ONE NEWS REPORTER ON LY THAI TO STREET /5TH PRECINCT/. DEAD CIVILIANS AND VC ARE REMOVED BY THE SAIGON FIRE BRIGADE.

1100H A VN RANGER UNIT IS ORDERED TO CROSS THE NHI THIEN DUONG BRIDGE /8TH PRECINCT/ TO CLEAR A VC MACHINE GUN CELL.

1105H A VC PLATOON IS APPEARING AT THE NGUYEN VAN TO POLICE SUB-STATION /6TH PRECINCT/.

1120H MSS/CMD INFORMED THAT APPROXIMATELY 50 VC FULLY ARMED ARE APPEARING AT A ROW OF TEN HOUSES NO 322 ON SU VAN HANH STREET /5TH PRECINCT/. REQUEST TO CROSSCHECK THIS INFORMATION /REPORTED BY LOCAL POPULATION/.

1330H AN ARVN JEEP BEARING PLATE NO. 123415 WAS SEIZED BY THE VC IN THE VICINITY OF NO. 30 PETRUS KY STREET /5TH PRECINCT/. TWO ARMED VC ARE APPEARING AT HOUSE NO 194 TU DUC STREET /1ST PRECINCT/.

1600H A NUMBER OF VC ARE PENETRATING INTO THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF SU VAN HANH AND LY THAI TO STREETS

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/5TH PRECINCT/. SEVERAL MEDICS WORKING THERE ESCAPED FEARFULLY.

1630H THE 3D PRECINCT POLICE APPREHENDED TWO VC AT KY VIEN TU PAGODA LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF PHAN DINH PHUNG AND BAN CO STREETS /3D PRECINCT/.

TEN SUSPECTS ARE SPOTTED ENTERING A CATHOLIC CHURCH LOCATED AT NO. 38 KY DONG STREET /3D PRECINCT/.

1720H IT IS CONFIRMED THAT THE ARVN VEHICLE STOLEN BY THE VC THIS AFTERNOON IS AN AMBULANCE JEEP BEARING LICENSE PLATE NO 123415.

1910H VC WEAPONS ARE REPORTEDLY SET UP AT THE MAC DINH CHI CEMETERY FACING THE U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

1955H A VC GROUP IS APPEARING AT NO. 16/1 HOANG DIEU STREET /TAN BINH DISTRICT/.

2250H VC FIRED APPROX FOUR ROUNDS OF B-40 ROCKETS INTO THE 6TH PRECINCT POLICE STATION.

4 FEB

0250H A RICE WAREHOUSE LOCATED ON LE QUANG LIEM QUAY /6TH PRECINCT/ WAS UNDER VC PRESSURE.

0522H A VC BATTALION IS REPORTEDLY APPEARING IN THE VICINITY OF A ROKFV AMMO DUMP AT COORDINATES XS 792884 IN THE 6TH PRECINCT.

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0900H A NUMBER OF VC APPEAR ON THE ROOF OF THE BINH TAY ALCOHOL PLANT LOCATED ON LE QUANG LIEM QUAY /6TH PRECINCT/ FACING THE 7TH PRECINCT POLICE STATION.

0930H THREE VC APPEAR AT THE BINH TIEN BRIDGE /6TH PRECINCT/.

0935H [redacted] THE VC /STRENGTH UNKNOWN/ CONCENTRATED IN THE VINH KHANH MOVIE THEATER LOCATED ON LE QUANG LIEM QUAY /6TH PRECINCT/ APPROX. 70 METERS FROM THE U- SHAPED BRIDGE. 3.3(h)(2)

1030H [redacted] APPROX. ONE VC COMPANY WAS SPOTTED APPEARING AT THE REAR OF THE BINH TAY ALCOHOL PLANT LOCATED ON LE QUANG LIEM QUAY /6TH PRECINCT/. 3.3(h)(2)

1055H A VN RANGER UNIT CLASHED WITH THE VC AT THE BINH TAY ALCOHOL PLANT /6TH PRECINCT/.

FRIENDLY FORCES CLASHED WITH THE VC AT CAU KINH BRIDGE, IN THE VICINITY OF THE NGUYEN VAN TO POLICE SUB-STATION /6TH PRECINCT/.

1058H THE 6TH PRECINCT POLICE REQUESTED THAT REINFORCEMENTS BE PROVIDED TO NGUYEN VAN TO POLICE SUB-STATION.

1115H A VN RANGER UNIT OPERATING AT THE BINH TAY ALCOHOL PLANT ASKED FOR AIR SUPPORT.

1250H A POLICE JEEP BEARING LICENSE PLATE NO. VA 9469, PAINTED LIGHT BROWN, WAS STOLEN BY THE VC.

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1450H ABOUT 10 VC WERE SPOTTED AT THE VUNG BOT ALLEYWAY ON TRAN NHAN TON STREET /5TH PRECINCT/, BETWEEN HUNG VUONG AND VINH VIEN STREETS.

1455H SNIPER FIRED ON THE 5TH PRECINCT POLICE FORCE THAT WAS OPERATING ON SU VAN HANH AND MINH MANG STREETS, AT VUON LAI WARD /5TH PCT/.

1500H THE VC ATTACKED AN ARVN JEEP MOVING ON BINH TIEN BRIDGE /6TH PCT/. THEY SET IT ON FIRE, CAPTURED ALIVE THREE ARVN SOLDIERS AND TOOK THE LATTER TO BAI SAY FERRY.

1500H IT WAS REPORTED THAT VC RETURNEES WHO WERE STATIONED AT A RETURNEES' CENTER LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF TRAN NHAN TON AND VINH VIEN STREETS /5TH PRECINCT/, HAVE LEFT THEIR CENTER.

1545H [redacted] LOCAL PEOPLE DISCLOSED THAT APPROX 1,000 VC WEARING VARIOUS CLOTHES, FULLY ARMED, WERE SPOTTED CONCENTRATING IN CAY XOAI MARKET LOCATED ON THE ROAD LINKING QUANG TRUNG MILITARY TRAINING CENTER AND SAIGON. 3.3(h)(2)

1615H [redacted] TONIGHT A COMPANY-SIZED VC UNIT WOULD PROBABLY CONDUCT AN ATTACK ON A FRIENDLY UNIT STATIONED AT COORD. XS 866958. 3.3(h)(2)

1845H [redacted] TONIGHT 3.3(h)(2)

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/4 FEBRUARY 1968/ THE VC WILL REGROUP THEIR FORCES IN ORDER TO ATTACK GVN OUTPOSTS LOCATED IN AREAS BORDERING SAIGON CAPITAL. THE VC WILL ALSO SHELL THE TAN SON NHUT AIRBASE AS WELL AS OTHER SENSITIVE INSTALLATIONS LOCATED IN SAIGON CITY.

1910H [redacted] 3.3(h)(2)

[redacted] IT IS KNOWN THAT THERE ARE TWO PAGODAS WHERE THE VC ARE REPORTEDLY HIDING--

1. THICH CA TU PAGODA LOCATED ON TRAN QUANG DIEU STREET /3D PRECINCT/.
2. PHAP VAN PAGODA LOCATED ON TRUONG MINH GIANG STREET /3D PCT/.

1950H THE VC, USING A MEGAPHONE, APPEALED TO THE OWNER OF BINH TAY ALCOHOL PLANT IN 7TH PRECINCT TO LET THEM IN.

2100H AN ESTIMATED 40 VC HAVE INFILTRATED INTO THE STORAGE AREA OF THE SAIGON HARBOR LOCATED IN THE TRIANGULAR AREA COVERING LY THAI TO, PETRUS KY AND HUNG VUONG STREETS /5TH PRECINCT/. SEVEN HARBOR PERSONNEL ON DUTY HAVE FLED.

2155H THE VC HAVE CUT BARBED WIRE AND BROKEN INTO HOUSE NO 341 PETRUS KY STREET /5TH PRECINCT/.

2230H HOUSES IN THE VICINITY OF NGUYEN VAN TO POLICE SUB-STATION /6TH PCT/ HAVE BEEN SET ON FIRE BY THE VC.

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2300H TEN U/I PERSONS, WEARING BLACK PAJAMAS, HAVE REPORTEDLY MOVED INTO AN AREA COVERING NGUYEN CANH CHAN, CHUONG DUONG, PHAT DIEM AND TRAN HUNG DAO STREETS, 2D PRECINCT.

2345H A NUMBER OF U/I PERSONS HAVE APPEARED AT A VACANT HOUSE NO 152/C BUI THI XUAN STREET /2D PRECINCT/. A SIGN "KIM LOAN" FACTORY IS IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE.

5 FEB

0005H A NUMBER OF VC HAVE REPORTEDLY APPEARED IN AN AREA COVERING PHAN DINH PHUNG, NGUYEN THIEN THUAT, PHAN THANH GIAN AND LY THAI TO STREETS.

0010H OUR FRIENDLY FORCES HAVE EXCHANGED FIRE WITH THE VC IN THE ABOVE RECTANGULAR AREA.

0025H A VC PLATOON HAS REPORTEDLY MOVED FROM PHU LAM AREA TOWARD SAIGON, PASSING BY LO SIEU HAMLET /6TH PRECINCT/.

0030H A COMPANY-SIZED VC UNIT HAS INFILTRATED INTO HOUSES LOCATED AT THE REAR OF TRAN VAN CHAU POLICE SUB-STATION /8TH PRECINCT/, AND TWO OR THREE OF THEM WERE KILLED BY THE POLICE.

0325H THE ENEMY HAVE CONDUCTED AN INTENSIVE GROUND ATTACK ON TRAN VAN CHAU POLICE SUB-STATION.

0425H THE VC HAVE ATTACKED A RF GUARD POST LOCATED AT NHI THIEN DUONG

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BRIDGE IN 8TH PRECINCT.

0430H THE TRAN VAN CHAU POLICE SUB-STATION WAS PARTLY COLLAPSED, A NUMBER OF POLICEMEN WERE WOUNDED AND THE VC HAVE STAYED CLOSE TO THE FENCES.

0447H THE VC HAVE ATTACKED THE KIEU CONG MUOI POLICE SUB-STATION.

0503H THE POLICE JEEP BEARING LICENSE PLATE NO CS 8-13, EQUIPPED WITH A MACHINE GUN, WAS SEIZED BY THE VC AT HIEP AN BRIDGE ON PHAM THE HIEN QUA /8TH PRECINCT/.

0705H REQUEST FRIENDLY ARTY FIRE BE DIRECTED AT COORD. YS 775831.

0710H SAIGON HARBOR POLICE ARE MAKING A SEARCH OF THE STORAGE AREA LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF PETRUS KY AND UNG VUONG STREETS /5TH PRECINCT/.

0722H REQUEST FRIENDLY ARTY BE DIRECTED AT COORD. YS 777837.

1027H VN POLICE FORCES ARRESTED ONE SUSPECT WHO CROSSED THE HONG THAP TU AND NGUYEN THIEN THUAT INTERSECTION /3D PRECINCT/.

1[illegible]0H ABOUT 200 VC REPORTEDLY INFILTRATED INTO THE VICINITY OF PHU THO HIPPODROME /5TH PRECINCT/.

1225H THE VC ARE RECEIVING AMMUNITION AT THE ESSO GAS STATION LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF HAI BA TRUONG AND TRAN CAO VAN STREETS /1ST PCT/. [illegible]/NOT CONFIRMED/.

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1325H ABOUT FIVE TO TEN VC ARE SIGHTED AT THE CORNER OF NHAN VI AND HUNG VUONG STREETS /5TH PRECINCT/.

1330H THE VC ARE ESCAPING FROM NGUYEN THIEN THUAT STREET TOWARD THE ROKFV BILLET LOCATED ON PHAN THANH GIAN STREET /3D PCT/.

1500H A SIZEABLE VC UNIT IS REPORTEDLY SHELTERING AT THE QUANG DONG CEMETERY LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF PHU THO RACE TRACK /6TH PCT/. TWO VC COMPANIES HAVE REPORTEDLY PENETRATED INTO THE ORPHANS' HOUSE LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF CONG HOA MILITARY HOSPITAL IN GO VAP DISTRICT /GIA DINH PROV./ TO GET FOOD.

1655H AN ARMED VC UNIT /STRENGTH UNKNOWN/ IS REPORTEDLY LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE BINH LOI BRIDGE ON NATIONAL ROAD NO 1 IN THU DUC DISTRICT /GIA DINH PROVINCE/.

AN ESTIMATED 100 ARMED VC FROM BLOCK NO 6, CAU PAT WARD, HAVE REPORTEDLY MOVED ALONG A CREEK TO STATION THEMSELVES AT BLOCK NO 5 OF THE SAME WARD /3TH PRECINCT/.

LAST NIGHT , 4 FEB 68, TWO VC COMPANIES, FULLY ARMED, STARTING FROM BINH TIEN WARD, ATTACKED THE NGUYEN VAN TO POLICE SUB-STATION /6TH PRECINCT/. ANOTHER VC PLATOON ARMED WITH THREE AUTOMATIC RIFLES HAVE REPORTEDLY PENETRATED INTO LO SIEU WARD IN THE VICINITY OF CAY MAI ARVN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL /6TH PRECINCT/.

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1715H TWO VC SQUADS ARE SIGHTED APPEARING AT THE HONG LAC HIGH SCHOOL OPPOSITE THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTE LOCATED ON TRAN QUOC TOAN STREET /3D PRECINCT/.

1905H IT IS REPORTED THAT THE VC HAVE CONCEALED THEIR WEAPONS AT LAM THY NGHIA PAGODA LOCATED AT ALLEYWAY NO 10 TRUONG MINH GIANG STREET 3D PRECINCT/.

2000H AN ESTIMATED 1,000 VC HAVE APPEARED AT THE HIEP AN BRIDGE IN THE VICINITY OF TRAN VAN CHAU POLICE SUB-STATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT AN ATTACK ON THE 8TH PRECINCT POLICE STATION TONIGHT.

2000H A TOYOTA SEDAN, LICENSE PLATE EH 3630, IS BEING USED TO TRANSPORT VC WEAPONS. IT HAS FREQUENTLY MOVED AROUND MINH MANG, PHAN THANH GIAN, PHAN DINH PHUNG STREETS /3D AND 5TH PRECINCTS/.

2030H THE TRAN VAN CHAU POLICE SUB-STATION HAS BEEN OVERRUN BY THE VC. SUBSEQUENTLY THE VC ARE CROSSING THE RIVER TO ATTACK THE 8TH PRECINCT POLICE STATION. NOW THE 8TH PRECINCT POLICE ARE EXCHANGING FIRE WITH THE VC.

2110 THE 8TH PRECINCT POLICE STATION HAS BEEN SET ON FIRE BY THE VC. POLICEMEN WHO ARE STATIONED THERE HAVE MOVED TO THE FIRE BRIGADE STATION OPPOSITE IT.

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6 FEB

0015H AN ESTIMATED 50 VC HAVE REPORTEDLY MOVED FROM BINH TAY MARKET PLACE TO CAY MAI MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL LOCATED ON PHAM DINH HO STREET /6TH PRECINCT/.

0115H THE VC HAVE REPORTEDLY APPEARED ON TONG DOC PHUONG STREET AND AT CHA TAM CATHOLIC CHURCH LOCATED AT THE 5TH PRECINCT.

0125H AN ESTIMATED 100 VC HAVE REPORTEDLY MOVED FROM CAY MAI MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL TOWARD SAIGON.

0200H THE CHOLON POWER PLANT LOCATED ON TAN HUNG STREET /5TH PRECINCT/ WAS DAMAGED BY AN EXPLOSION OF UNKNOWN TYPE AND A NUMBER OF WORKERS ON DUTY WERE WOUNDED.

0205H THE VC ARE CONDUCTING A GROUND ATTACK ON BA HOA POLICE SUB-STATION LOCATED AT 7TH PRECINCT WITH CREW- SERVED WEAPONS. REINFORCEMENTS ARE REQUESTED.

0310H THE CHIEF OF BA HOA POLICE SUB-STATION AND A NUMBER OF POLICEMEN WERE WOUNDED DURING THE VC ATTACK.

0315H THE VO VAN HOI POLICE SUB-STATION /5TH PRECINCT/ IS BEING ATTACKED BY THE VC.

0540H BOTH BA HOA AND VO VAN HOI POLICE SUB-STATIONS ARE LOSING RADIO CONTACT WITH SMPD AND DGNP.

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0800H CORRECTION-- THE TRAN VAN CHAU POLICE SUB-STATION HAS NOT BEEN SEIZED BY THE VC AS REPORTED AT 2030H ON 5 FEB 68. POLICEMEN HAVE STILL STAYED AT THEIR STATION TO FIGHT THE VC THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.

0830H THE VC ARE SPOTTED IN THE VICINITY OF NGUYEN VAN LIEN POLICE SUB-STATION /8TH PRECINCT/.

1030H NGUYEN VAN THOAI POLICE SUB-STATION IS UNDER VC FIRE. ONE POLICEMAN WAS WOUNDED.

THE VC ARE SIGHTED APPEARING AT THE CORNER OF PHO CO DIEU AND LY NAM DE STREETS /5TH PRECINCT/.

THE VC SET BARRELS ON HOA HAO STREET /5TH PRECINCT/ FOR BARRICADES.

1045H [redacted] 3.3(h)(2) THE VC HAVE PUT A TAXICAB IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TRAN HOANG QUAN AND THUAN KIEU INTERSECTION IN ORDER TO BLOCK THE TRAFFIC.

1045H [redacted] 3.3(h)(2) AT 2000H ON 5 FEB 68 TWO VC BATTALIONS CONCENTRATED AT PHU HUN VILLAGE /APPROX XS 975930/ AND TAM DA VILLAGE /APPROX. FS 000955/. THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MOVE INTO SAIGON CAPITAL.

AT 2020H ON 5 FEB 68, FROM INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LOCAL PEOPLE, IT IS KNOWN THAT ABOUT 200 VC, FULLY ARMED, WERE

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SIGHTED APPEARING AT COORD. XS 650934 AND XS 634943, NEAR THE PROVINCIAL ROAD NO 13.

THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MOVE TO VINH LOC VILLAGE, TAN BINH DISTRICT /GIA DINH PROVINCE/.

1230H A POLICE PATROL AND TRUCK ON THUAN KIEU STREET /4TH PRECINCT/ TOWARD CHO RAY HOSPITAL RECEIVED VC SNIPER FIRE /5TH PRECINCT/.

1300H THE 5TH PRECINCT POLICE STARTED AN OPERATION TO SEARCH THE BODIES OF TWO U.S. [illegible]IA AND A U.S. JEEP DAMAGED BY THE VC AT PHU THO [illegible] /5TH PRECINCT/.

1315H CAY MAI ARVN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL INFORMED THAT VC DISGUISING AS VN POLICEMEN ARE CHECKING PAPERS OF PEOPLE PASSING BY LO SIEU STREET AND CHO THIEC MARKET /5TH PRECINCT/.

1400H THE 3D ARVN MARINE BATTALION JUST CAME TO REINFORCE THE POLICE. NOW THEY ARE STATIONED AT PETRUS KY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL LOCATED ON CONG HOA STREET OPPOSITE THE DGNP HEADQUARTERS /5TH PRECINCT/.

1250K THE POLICE ARE CONDUCTING A SEARCH OPERATION IN THE RECTANGULAR AREA COVERING VO THANH, CONG HOA, TRAN HUNG DAO STREETS AND AN ALLEYWAY PARALLEL TO CONG HOA STREET /2D PRECINCT/.

1500H THE POLICE ARE NOW CONDUCTING A SEARCH OPERATION IN THE RECTANGULAR AREA COVERING NGUYEN CANH CHAN, VO THANH,

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NGUYEN CU TRINH AND PHAT DIEM STREETS /2D PRECINCT/.

1515H OUR FRIENDLY FORCES WERE HIT BY VC FIRE AT THUAN KIEU AND TRAN HOANG QUAN INTERSECTION /5TH PRECINCT/.

1545H OUR FRIENDLY FORCES HAVE CLASHED WITH AN ESTIMATED 100 VC AT THE REAR OF VIEN DONG SCHOOL LOCATED ON NGUYEN VAN THOAI STREET /TAN BINH DISTRICT/. WE SUFFERED ONE WIA.

1745H AN ESTIMATED 20 ARMED VC HAVE INFILTRATED INTO THE GIAC MINH PAGODA AND ANOTHER PAGODA NEXT TO THE GIAC MINH. THESE PAGODAS ARE LOCATED ON PHAN THANH GIAN STREET /3D PRECINCT/ NEAR A ROK TROOPS BILLET.

2130H THE VC JUST RELEASED AN ARVN SERGEANT AND 24 ADDITIONAL ARVN SOLDIERS /PLACE OF CAPTURE AND PLACE OF RELEASE NOT KNOWN/. THE ARVN SGT ESTIMATES THAT THE VC STRENGTH IS BETWEEN 100 TO 120 MEN. THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF 3-WHEEL LAMBRETTA BUSSES, JEEPS, GMC TRUCKS AND AMBULANCE VANS. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE VC WOULD USE THESE VEHICLES TO INFILTRATE INTO THE SAIGON CAPITAL /INFORMATION FROM DGNP/.

3.3(h)(2)

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